

Justice Hughes's Mother Dead.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Mary C. Hughes, mother of Associate Justice Charles E. Hughes of the United States Supreme Court, died early to-day at her residence here. She was the widow of Rev. David C. Hughes of New York, and was born in Middletown, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1826. Her life was devoted to religious and charitable work.

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Advance Announcement

ANNUAL SALE OF FURNITURE, BEDS AND RUGS

Advance Selections may be made during the remainder of the week,
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Purchases will appear on bill rendered February 1st

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regularly 50.00
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8.0x9 ft. regularly 30.00 19.50

MOTHERS' PENSION BILL TO KEEP HOMES INTACT READY FOR LEGISLATURE

Child Welfare Measure Will
Be One of First Presented
at Albany.

IS BLOW AT ASYLUMS.

Will Enable Widows to Care
for Young Children Under
Home Influence.

By Sophie Irene Loeb.
(Member of the New York State Commission on
Relief of Widowed Mothers.)
One of the first bills to be presented
to the new Legislature is the Moth-
ers' Pension Bill or more suitably
termed the Child Welfare Bill. This
measure was drawn by members of
the New York State Commission for
Relief of Widowed Mothers created
by the Legislature with an appropri-
ation of \$12,000 for investigations.
Judge Aaron J. Levy is Chairman of

Ready for the sugar and
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H-O is steam-cooked at
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THE ONLY STEAM-COOKED
Oatmeal

Women's Clubs.
New York City Federation of Sis-
terhoods.
New York City League of Mothers'
Clubs.

NECESSARY PROVISIONS OF
MOTHERS' PENSION BILL.

As a member of this Commission I
returned this spring from a tour of
investigation in six countries of
Europe—England, Scotland, France,
Switzerland, Germany, Denmark.
One of the most startling facts
that I found was that New York,
and in fact the United States, has
more institutions and less family
life for children than any other
country in the world.

Other poignant comparisons are
given below. The present bill was
drawn so that it would not present
any drastic provisions and is a broad
treatment of the subject in order to
assure its passage.

The very first paragraph of the Act
says: "Provision is hereby made for
the appointment of local boards of
child welfare, which, subject to the
provisions of this act and the vote
of public money by local author-
ities for such purpose, shall be em-
powered to grant allowances to wid-
owed mothers with one or more chil-
dren under the age of sixteen years,
in order that such children may be
suitably cared for in their own homes
by such mothers; provided always
that such allowances shall be made
only when the mothers are suitable
persons to bring up their children
properly and require aid to enable
them to do so."

The bill simply establishes the
principle and supplies the ma-
chinery for its practical operation.
It is not compulsory, but per-
missive; not mandatory, but
wholly optional. This bill asks for
no appropriation. It fixes no addi-
tional expense. There is no politi-
cal in the bill, if local legisla-
tures approve and necessary
appropriations are made the
Boards of Child Welfare may
grant allowances to indigent wid-
owed mothers whose children re-
quire to be worthy custo-
dians of their own children,
whereby such children may con-
tinue to receive the real mother's
love and tender care within that
mother's own home, until they are
sixteen years of age, or old
enough and able to care for them-
selves.

The greatest problem of the age
is how shall society—the State—
best conserve Johnny Doe that he
become an asset instead of a li-
ability. Over 34,000 children are
at present in New York State in-
stitutions.

CHILD WELFARE MEANS HOME
CARE.

This bill merely puts the principle
of home care into the machinery
of the present moving machinery
to be used to relieve, and only creating a new
Board of Child Welfare whose ser-
vices will be composed of worthy citi-
zens who will not only pay

The County Judge in the rural
counties may appoint a Board of Child
Welfare, composed of seven members,
consisting of the County Superintendent
of Poor, or other officer exercising
such duties, a representative of the
public schools, a representative of the
public health, a representative of the
Children's Court (or if no Children's
Court, then of the County Court), and
three additional members, two of
whom shall be women.

It costs approximately \$5 to house
and board a child in an institution for
one week. That institution frequently
furnish out the child with a foster
mother and pays her, the foster
mother, for its keep.

Yet, unless this bill becomes a
law there is no way by which the
local Government may give the
same amount of money direct to the
mother and blood mother with
which to care for her own.

The larger majority of half or-
phans are there only because
against her will, repulsive to every
fiber of her mother-love, the
mother is forced to part with her
own children, finding herself too
poor to maintain them. These
children are swallowed up in the
pauper or institutional homes.

Boards of Child Welfare, according
to this bill, are subject to the general
supervision of the State Board of
Charities.

The flexibility of the bill was de-
signed to avoid opposition of any
kind, and with the hope of alleviating
unnecessary human distress.
Instead of giving the child and \$3
per week, or any other sum, to the in-
stitution, localities are empowered at
their discretion to give the \$3 direct
to the mother and not tear the child
away from her affection—often, as it
has transpired, to the grievous dis-
aster of both the mother and child.

The whole thing is left within the
jurisdiction of the local authorities.
It is a direct principle that is being
made into law by practically every
European country as well as other
states of the union and is the result
of the deliberation of a commission
which has spent one year's work on

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Twenty-two States of the Union al-
ready have this law, and have proved
it economical to the community in
every statistical sense, aside from the
moral and ethical effect on the child.
This bill is not intended as a fight
against institutional homes. Neither
is it a protest against private charity.
It is a supplemental or comparative
proposition, working in harmony and
cooperation and not against existing
real charities. The laws enacted in
Europe in this connection are
standing these countries in good stead
now during these war times, as de-
spatches indicate.

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